

OF NOTE

BRIEFINGS

★ New spouses

Heart Link Spouse Orientation is available by appointment at the Family Support Center.

The briefing, for spouses new to the military, is a one-on-one presentation about everything you should know about life in the military.

Register at 846-0741.

★ Pre-deployment

Pre-deployment Briefings are available at the Family Support Center on request.

Call Tech. Sgt. Lloyd McKenzie at 846-0741 for an appointment.

CLOSINGS

★ Logistics

The 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron is minimally manned **Jan. 12**, 7-9:30 a.m., during a commanders call.

EDUCATION

★ Virtual ed center

The Community College of the Air Force and the Air Force Virtual Education Center have teamed to help military members build on their education by using the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

The AFVEC is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about education benefits, including selected CCAF information.

Students may log on to AFVEC,

<https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, from a .mil domain only, to create an account and to access their on-line CCAF academic records and customer service tools.

★ CLEP test

The CLEP college testing program is in transition, moving from 35 to 14 exams available at the Education Center.

Subject exams withdrawn from testing **Jan. 31, 2004** are: Analyzing & Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Introductory Psychology and Principles of Management.

The five exams are part of the 14 that will be available on base in revised versions in **April 2004**. All 35 exams remain available at off-base testing centers on a self-pay basis.

Call 846-8955 or 846-9933.

EVENTS

★ Chiefs induction

The 2004 Chiefs Induction Ceremony is **Jan. 23** in the Mountain View Club. Senior Master Sgts. Jeff Amos and Mark Hall will be inducted.

Social hour is at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Dress is mess dress, semi formal or dark suit or evening dress for civilians.

For reservations for \$25 a person, contact Chief Master Sgt. Sheila Gurule at 846-5609 or sheila.gurule@kirtland.af.mil.

★ Fiesta park holiday

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Park offers free parking and two-for-one admission to all employees of Kirtland AFB during the December Holiday Fiesta.

Excepting Dec. 31, the Holiday Fiesta is 6-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Regular admission is \$5 a person for those over 12 years and free for 12 and younger with an adult.

The Holiday Fiesta includes a Santa's Workshop where children can create gifts, a Mrs. Claus kitchen with refreshments, luminaria displays, "sleigh" rides for viewing the lighted displays and inflatables and "snow."

Static displays of the hot air balloons are Fridays and Saturday, with fireworks also on Saturday evenings.

For more information about schedules and events, visit www.balloonfiesta.com.

★ King service

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative service is **Jan. 16**, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the chapel. A reception follows in the chapel annex.

Guest speaker is Elder James L. Keith Jones of the God in Christ and Choir.

For more information or questions, contact 1st Lt. Kathryn Parker, base project officer for this event, at 846-5393; 2nd. Lt. Devanie Bridges, co-project officer, at 846-1820; or Rasheeda Tabb-Bey, Special Emphasis Program manager, Black Employment manager for Kirtland AFB, at 853-5156.

★ Worship services

The chapel offers Advent and Christmas services for the Protestant and Catholic community.

Catholic services are: **Christmas Eve** Mass with children, 5 p.m.; **Christmas Eve** Midnight Mass at midnight; carols **Christmas Eve** at 11:30 p.m.; and **Christmas Day** Mass at 10 a.m.

New Years Eve Mary Mother of God is 6 p.m.; **New Years Day** Mary Mother of God is 10 a.m.

Protestant services are: **Christmas Eve** Candlelight Communion Service, 7 p.m.; **New Years Eve** Watchnight Service at 10 p.m.

MEETINGS

★ Advisory council

The TEAM KIRTLAND Advisory Council, which normally meets the first Tuesday of every month, will meet again **Feb. 3**, 3 p.m., at the Rio Grande Community Center Santa Fe Room.

All units are invited to send a representative to participate in the discussion of issues that affect everyone on the installation.

★ Women's history

The Women's History Month Committee meets **Jan. 8**, 9:30 a.m., in the Distance Learning Center, Building 20604, Room C-21.

The theme for the upcoming month is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

Call Mary Ann Lovato, 846-4188, or e-mail maryann.lovato@kirtland.af.mil, or Teresita Sanchez, 846-1768.

OF NOTE

MISCELLANEA

★ RV storage lot

Management of the RV Storage Lot has moved from the FamCamp to the Outdoor Recreation in Building 20410.

★ Expanded hours

Operating hours at the West Shoppette are expanded on a trial basis.

The hours are: 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday.

In January, the shoppette's "Snack Avenue" is enlarged to include counter space for hotdogs and a soda fountain, as well as the coffee, cappuccino and microwave.

★ MPF hours

The Military Personnel Flight is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. for appointments.

Walk-in customers are welcome noon-2 p.m. in all sections other than Identification Cards, which is open to walk-in all operating hours.

Call 846-8979.

PERSONNEL

★ Dress, appearance

A Dress and Appearance Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil provides answers to your questions.

If your questions need research, e-mail to afpc.dress@randolph.af.mil.

★ No paper LES

Paper copies of Leave and Earnings Statements for military members won't be provided after **Jan. 1**.

To access accounts on-line, starting Jan. 1, military and civilians should visit the finance customer service counter to receive an immediate PIN or logon at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to receive a PIN by mail.

To have a finance employee visit your organization with a laptop computer to provide PINs, call 2nd

Lt. Michelle Paquet at 846-7258.

All commanders with personnel that don't normally have access to computers should make a computer available. Computers also are available at the Rio Grande Community Center and at the Library.

★ Name tag

Jan. 1, 2004, is the date wearing the new metallic name tag on service dress uniform and pullover sweaters is mandatory for active duty Air Force members.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service only is the authorized vendors for tags at this time.

Officers purchase their own tags.

★ Premium increase

Some Air Force Federal Employees Group Life Insurance participants will see an increase in premiums in January.

Civilian employees in the Option B 70-80 or older age bands are slated for the increase the first full pay period of the new year.

Option B Rate Table for 2004 (Cost Per \$1,000 of Coverage):

★ For ages 70-74 biweekly rates are \$1.03 up from 87 cents and monthly rates are \$2.232 up from \$1.885.

★ For ages 75-79 biweekly rates are \$1.43 up from \$1.07 and monthly rates are \$3.098 up from \$2.318.

★ For ages 80 and over biweekly rates are \$1.83 up from \$1.27 and monthly rates are \$3.965 up from \$2.752.

Employees may cancel or decrease Option B coverage at any time, but should remember that opportunities to pick it up again are limited.

To avoid paying the increased premium, elections should be submitted no later than Jan. 10 via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm, or the BEST automated phone system 800-616-3775.

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RECRUITING

★ Blood drives

United Blood Services conducts blood drives at:

★ Sandia Labs **every Tuesday**, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,

★ 377th Civil Engineer, Building 20684, **Dec. 19**, noon-4 p.m.,

★ New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System, Spinal Cord Training Room, **Dec. 30**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

ROADWORK

★ Traffic lights change

A new traffic signal light is installed on Wyoming Boulevard at A Street. The light is in flashing mode **through Dec. 29** when it will begin working as a normal signal.

The light was approved by the Base Traffic Working Group.

In another change, the traffic lights on Texas Street at F Avenue and G Avenue, which currently flash red in all directions, will be changed to full-function traffic lights during work hours.

Call 846-8222.

★ Wyo./Pa. intersection

Repaving at Wyoming Boulevard and Pennsylvania is expected to continue through **mid-December**.

Follow signs and barricades and use detours at the site, and seek alternate routes when possible.

SCHOLARSHIPS

★ Active duty family

The Military Officers Association of America's 2004 Base/Post Scholarship program is open through **March 1, 2004**. Scholarships are \$1,000 grants to 50 dependents of active duty personnel worldwide.

Students, 24 or younger, whose parents are active duty in the military services or Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are eligible. Depen-

dents of drilling Reservists and Guardsmen are also eligible. The students must be working on their first undergraduate degree.

For full information and to apply, visit www.moaa.org.

★ Spouse scholarship

The Air Force Spouses Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to spouses of Air Force active duty, Reserve or Guard.

Spouses worldwide pursuing a degree can apply for the \$1,000 scholarships by **Jan. 30**.

Learn details at www.aef.org/aid/spouse.asp.

★ Military children

Applications for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program are being accepted through **Feb. 18** from children of active duty and retired military, Guard and Reserve members. The academic scholarship awards are for \$1,500.

The program is operated by the Defense Commissary Agency, and funding comes from manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries.

The Fisher House Foundation underwrites the program's administrative costs.

The general public can contribute to the program through the Fisher House Foundation at www.fisherhouse.org or visit the program's Web site at www.militaryscholar.org/.

★ Webster enrollees

Webster University in Albuquerque offers a \$1,500 scholarship for tuition and books to new degree-seeking students who apply and enroll in the Spring Term 1, beginning **Jan. 5**.

Students seeking the scholarship, sponsored by the Webster alumni, will write a 500-word essay about why they are seeking a degree.

Application packages available from the university's Kirtland AFB and Metro campuses must be returned by **Jan. 7**.

Call 292-6988.